

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today reintroduced a private bill aimed at continuing a stay of deportation for Emilio Maya, the Argentinean small businesses owner turned undercover informant who put his own life at risk to assist the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in solving drug, gang and gun related crimes. Upon introducing a similar bill in the 111th Congress last February, DHS officials granted a year long stay to Maya, which is set to end in February.

"What Emilio thought was part of a deal to gain citizenship turned sour last February, when he was arrested at gun point by the very DHS agents to whom he had supplied vital crime-stopping information," said Hinchey. "When someone puts their life on the line to protect the lives of those in this community from the scourge of drugs and gang violence they should be rewarded - not punished. That's why I've introduced a bill to prevent deportation and why I am working to help ensure this case is fully and clearly considered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials."

A private bill, like the one being proposed by Hinchey, is a proposal for a law that applies only to a particular individual or group of individuals, or corporate entity. While common before the 1970s, today private bills are primarily used to provide grants of citizenship in unusual cases. Few private bills have been signed into law in recent years. However, oftentimes federal agencies will take action to resolve issues for which private bills have been introduced.

Hinchey has worked continuously to prevent the deportation of Maya. Most recently, he wrote to DHS officials urging them to reconsider the initiation of deportation proceedings. A copy of his letter can be found [here](#).